GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:131
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
INDIAN DOCTORS IN U.K.
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of doctors from India who are undergoing training in U.K. may be forced to leave the country after they lost a legal challenge against the new immigration laws which bar Government hospitals from hiring doctors from outside the European Union without work permit as published in the 'Times of India' dated February 10, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether India has taken up the matter with the British Government to protect the interests of the Indian doctors in U.K.; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and the response of the British Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO LOK SABA STARRED QUESTION NO. 131 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07 MARCH, 2007 REGARDING 'INDIAN DOCTORS IN U.K.'

(a) to (e) : The British Government has implemented new immigration and employment regulations on 7th March, 2006, under which all non-EU doctors will hereafter require a work permit to work in the U.K. However, work permit will be given against specific vacancies for which suitable UK/EU doctors are not available. The new regulations abolished the Permit Free Training (PFT) category through which most Indian Medical Graduates (IMG) worked in the U.K. The new regulations were confirmed by an order of the British High Court on 9th February, 2007. The Indian High Commission had taken up with the Government of U.K. the issue of allowing the Indian doctors to apply for the first round of recruitment under the system of current Modernising Medical Careers launched by U.K. Department of Health. The Department of Health has agreed to consider the request of keeping the first round open for Indian doctors. In the first round, NHS proposes to recruit around 10,000 doctors. Further efforts are on to ensure that IMGs are also allowed to appear unconditionally for the second round of recruitment that is likely to take place in April 2007.